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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, who established the Heavens, give our lawmakers a faith that will hold strong and steady in life's storms. Help them to remember that You are with them every moment of every day. Blessed by Your loving providence, may they trust You to surround our Nation with the shield of Your favor. Give them a quiet confidence for facing the difficulties of our times. Lord, make our Senators instruments of Your will for the healing of our Nation and world. Thank You for the rewards You give to those who live for You.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

TRANSPORTATION-HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, from the outset, the new Senate has worked to realize a smarter and more inclusive appropriations process. That is why we passed a budget, moving past 6 years of inaction. That is why we

passed all 12 appropriations bills through committee, moving past 6 years of inaction. Nearly all of those bills passed on a bipartisan basis. That is why it is so disappointing to see voices on the other side try to tie them up in gridlock.

We never lost sight of the goal. We never stopped trying to move the Senate forward and our country ahead. Because we kept pushing, we are steadily overcoming the partisan gridlock of the past and steadily moving back to regular order on appropriations. Last week we passed one bipartisan appropriations bill—the bill that funds America's veterans. Today we will begin to advance another—the bill that funds America's transportation and housing infrastructure.

I would like to recognize the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, for her work in crafting a bipartisan bill that makes smart investments in critical transportation and infrastructure priorities. This is a bipartisan bill that will help ensure our transportation systems are reliable, efficient, and safe. This is a bipartisan bill that will increase the efficiency and affordability of Federal housing programs.

For example, the expanded Moving to Work Program it contains will offer a helping hand to lower income Americans. Moving to Work is one of the many success stories of the bipartisan welfare reform effort of the 1990s, and by expanding it from 39 to 339 housing authorities, we can help more Americans achieve the self-sufficiency that is at the core of our national dream.

Americans who strive for a better life deserve real opportunity. They deserve serious policies that can make positive differences in their lives. That is what Moving to Work aims to achieve. It is just one more reason to pass the bipartisan transportation infrastructure bill before us.

Again, I want to thank our colleague from Maine for her important work across the aisle to craft it. We look forward to debating the bill today.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2288

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2288) to prohibit members and staff of the Federal Reserve System from lobbying for or against legislation, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

EVERY CHILD ACHIEVES ACT OF 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the House message accompanying S. 1177.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the House insist upon its amendment to the bill (S. 1177) entitled "An Act to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves," and ask a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

COMPOUND MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to disagree to the amendment of the House, agree to the request from the House for a conference, and authorize the Presiding Officer to appoint conferees.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to go to conference with respect to S. 1177.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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